

**Barry Farrimond-Chuong MBE** is a distinguished leader in social enterprise; developing, strengthening and directing arts and cultural organisations with a social mission.

In 2016 he became Chief Executive of Open Up Music, the pioneering charity he co-founded dedicated to young disabled people—removing barriers to participation and transforming access to music education and performance. Under Barry’s leadership, Open Up Music has launched several groundbreaking programmes. Open Orchestras has become the UK’s largest community of inclusive ensembles, supporting SEND schools nationwide to offer accessible school orchestras. His team also led the creation of the National Open Youth Orchestra, of which the College is a proud partner, the world’s first disabled-led national youth orchestra, which brings together young disabled and non-disabled musicians to perform new music in prestigious venues.

A recognised specialist in accessible music technology, Barry led the development of the Clarion—a versatile, award-winning digital instrument that can be played with any part of the body, including the eyes. In 2018, he was awarded an MBE for services to Accessible Music Technology, recognising the transformative impact of his work.

Barry is also a professional actor, known for his long-running role as Ed Grundy in BBC Radio 4’s *The Archers*. He is also the inventor of the Farrimond Friction Hitch, a quick-release knot that provides a quick method to tighten a tent ridge line.

Barry currently serves as Co-Chair of the Music Education Council, a UK umbrella body for music education, where he plays a key role in shaping national policy and practice. With a rare blend of artistic insight, technical expertise and strategic leadership, he remains a passionate advocate for inclusion, innovation and creative excellence across arts and culture.

Barry’s connection with the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama is one of shared purposes, promoting the NOYO collaboration between Open Up Music, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and RWCMD, which he regularly cites as a national exemplar. Barry’s support of our partnership demonstrates his belief in inclusive talent development and his commitment to reshaping the future of music.

Barry’s professional career is framed by an empathetic approach to everyone he meets, devoting his life to those who are excluded, overlooked or forgotten. His compassion, warmth and humour embody the values of RWCMD, and we are honoured to welcome him as a friend, and a Fellow.

Honoured Guests, I present to you Barry Farrimond-Chuong as a Fellow of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.